

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting by video conference on July 15, 2020 originating from the Department of Public Health 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia C. Bouffard, RN, Chair
Jason Blando, Public Member
Mary M. Brown, RN
Mary Dietmann, RN
Lisa S. Freeman, Public Member
Jennifer Long, APRN
Geraldine Marrocco, RN
Gina M. Reiners, RN

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Stacy Schulman, Legal Counsel to the Board, DPH
Christian Andresen, Section Chief, DPH
Dana Dalton, RN, Supervising Nurse Consultant, DPH
Helen Smith, RN, Nurse Consultant, DPH
Brittany Allen, Staff Attorney, DPH
Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, DPH
Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, DPH
Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison, DPH
Agnieszka Salek, Hearings Liaison, DPH

The meeting commenced at 8:30 a.m. All participants were present by video or telephone conference.

CHAIR UPDATES

Nothing to Report

OPEN FORUM

Nothing to Report

ADDITION TO AGENDA

Gina M. Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to add the approval of minutes to the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

NATIONAL COUNCIL STATE BOARDS OF NURSING

Mary Dietmann and Gina Reiners have registered for the annual meeting and will be attending as delegates. Chair Bouffard registered for the annual meeting and the NCLEX webinar.

MINUTES

Gina M. Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Brown to approve the minutes from May 20, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

Gina M. Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary brown to approve the minutes from June 17, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

CONNECTICUT LEAGUE FOR NURSING

Meredith Kazer and Marcia Proto were present from the Connecticut League for Nursing to provide information regarding the following:

- Update on the response and actions taken by the CLN Council of Deans & Directors related to COVID-19.
- Topics from the Deans & Directors meetings in February and June 2020.
- Promoting and Empowering Bedside Nursing
- A nurse's guide to graduate school in Connecticut
- Appointment model for nursing education

Geraldine Marrocco arrived at 9:30 a.m.

SCHOOL ISSUES

- Lincoln Technical Institute – Proposal for Virtual Simulation

Deborah Little and Patricia DeLucia were present for Lincoln Technical Institute. The Board reviewed information pertaining to a request to offer, on a temporary basis, 25% of the total program clinical hours virtually at the New Britain and Shelton campuses.

Gina M. Reiners made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman, and amended by Geraldine Marrocco, that Lincoln Technical Institute's proposal to offer virtual simulation for 25% of its total clinical hours be granted for a period of not more than 18 months. The motion passed with all in favor except Mary Dietmann who was opposed.

- Porter & Chester Institute – Plan of Correction – Monthly update

Nancy Brunette, Philip Krebs, Sherry Greifzu, Deborah Hessel; and Joan Feldman, Esq. were present on behalf of Porter & Chester.

The Board reviewed an update from their Consultant (Sherry Greifzu) which includes observations of visits to two campus locations (Stratford and Hamden) and upcoming campus and clinical visits.

- Sacred Heart University – Temporary Waiver Request

Elizabeth Denne was present for Sacred heart University.

Mary Brown made a motion, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco, to grant a temporary six-month waiver for Colleen Hefferle, RN. The motion passed with all in favor except Jason Blando and Mary Dietmann who abstained.

- Fairfield University Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies

- 1) Temporary Waiver Request

Meredith Kazer and Erica Wuchiski were present for Fairfield University.

Mary Dietmann made a motion, seconded by Mary Brown, to grant a temporary one-year waiver for Lindsay Collins, RN

- 2) Proposal for Master's Entry to Practice Nursing (MEPN) pre-licensure program

The Board reviewed information pertaining to a proposal to offer an accelerated Master's direct entry 24-month pre-licensure nursing program.

Mary Brown made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman, to grant the proposal for the program which will begin in May 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

- Registered nurse program accreditation letters

Christian Andresen, Section Chief, Practitioner Licensing and Investigation Section was present to discuss the role of the Board in the oversight of nurse education programs. Mary Brown explained that accreditation letters were requested as part of Board's periodic review of nursing programs. In addition, the Board requested that schools provide the credentials of faculty teaching in the nursing programs to ensure that faculty are qualified.

Mr. Andresen was concerned that the Board may be duplicating the work of accreditation agencies and may be undertaking tasks not within its purview.

Issues regarding virtual simulation requests were also discussed. Attorney Joan Feldman, on behalf of Porter & Chester Institute also addressed this issue.

Stacy Schulman informed the Board that any Orders concerning virtual simulation during the COVID 19 pandemic will be made by the Commissioner, in consultation with DPH licensing staff and the Office of the Attorney General, during which the Board's recommendations will be taken under consideration.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Helen Smith, Nurse Consultant, DPH provided a summary of nursing scope of practice inquiries received by the Department of Public Health during May and June, 2020. 31 calls were received in May and 47 in June.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE HEALTH ASSISTANCE INTERVENTION EDUCATION NETWORK (HAVEN)

Dana Dalton asked if patient harm should be included in the criteria for exclusion from participation in the HAVEN program. The consensus of the Board is that there should be an allegation of actual patient harm for exclusion, not just the potential for patient harm.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Sandra Blanchette, RN - Petition No: 2020-431

Staff Attorney Brittany Allen presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Sandra Blanchette. Ms. Blanchette was not present and was not represented.

Gina Reiners moved to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension in that respondent's continued practice as a nurse is a clear and immediate danger to public health, safety and welfare. The motion was seconded by Mary Dietmann and passed unanimously. A hearing will be scheduled for August 19, 2020.

Heather Orsi, LPN - Petition No: 2020-314

Staff Attorney Brittany Allen presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Heather Orsi. Ms. Orsi was not present and was not represented.

Mary Dietmann moved to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension in that respondent's continued practice as a nurse is a clear and immediate danger to public health, safety and welfare. The motion was seconded by Geraldine Marrocco and passed unanimously. A hearing will be scheduled for August 19, 2020.

CONSENT ORDERS

Stephen Keller, RN - Petition No. 2017-1112

Diane Wilan, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Stephen Keller, RN. Attorney Timothy Grady was present on behalf of Mr. Keller.

Mary Dietmann moved, and Gina Reiners seconded, to approve the Consent Order which imposes a reprimand and probation for a period of six months. The motion passed unanimously.

Nicolette Strizzi, RN - Petition No. 2019-171

Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Nicolette Strizzi, RN. Ms. Strizzi was present without representation.

Mary Brown moved, and Lisa Freeman seconded, to approve the Consent Order which imposes a probation for a period of four years. The motion passed unanimously.

Lunch Break 12:10 -12:40 p.m.

Following the lunch break Attorney Schulman and Mr. Andresen had further discussion with the Board regarding accreditation and the Board's responsibilities in the review of nursing education programs. No motions were made, nor votes taken regarding this issue.

CONSENT ORDERS - continued

Tabitha Banker, LPN - Petition No: 2018-557

Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Tabitha Banker, LPN. Attorney Cody Guarnieri was present on behalf of Ms. Banker.

Gina Reiners moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded, to approve the Consent Order which imposes a reprimand and probation for a period of six months. The motion passed unanimously.

HEARINGS

Laura Kisatsky, RN Petition No: 2020-541

Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was not present and was not represented.

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to grant to the Department of Public Health's oral request to deem the allegations admitted due to an answer not being filed by respondent. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the close of the record the Board conducted fact-finding. Mary Brown moved, and Jennifer Long seconded that Ms. Lemire be found as charged. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Brown moved, and Jennifer Long seconded, that Ms. Kisatsky's license be revoked. The motion passed unanimously.

Nicholas Lewonczyk, LPN - Petition No. 2017-50

Diane Wilan, Staff Attorney was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was present but was not represented.

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Brown, to enter executive session to obtain evidence relating to confidential treatment records. The motion passed unanimously. The Board entered executive session from 1:50 p.m. until 2:42 p.m. No motions were made and no votes were taken during executive session.

Following executive session respondent requested a continuance to allow him to obtain updated treatment records. Respondent's request was granted, the hearing will resume on September 16, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to adjourn this meeting at 2:54 p.m.

Patricia C. Bouffard, D.N.Sc., Chair
Board of Examiners for Nursing